



EMC News

April 5, 2000

Volume 7, No. 4

Chair's Report



At the EMC's request, I sent a memo to PIC Chair Michael Lane, requesting that the EMC be given a designated voting seat on the restructured Water Resources Council. At its March 15 meeting, the PIC Committee voted to add a seat for the EMC. This matter then was sent to the Board of Representatives, which voted on March 21, 2000, passing the resolution including a permanent, voting seat for the EMC.

The Library Solar Panel Committee provided an impressive amount of information to the BOR at its March 21, 2000, meeting. The BOR devoted a considerable amount of time and discussion to this matter and will continue to do so at future meetings. Several Board members have told me how much they appreciate the work done by this committee. It is my hope that this effort will serve as a model for future EMC-BOR interactions.

Submitted by Susan Brock

Environmental Review Committee Report

The Environmental Review Committee met on Tuesday, March 28, and reopened discussion on Cornell's Radiation Disposal Site (RDS) Feasibility Study. After reviewing the responses received from Cornell regarding our questions and having heard from Martin Brand of the NYSDEC last month, the Committee proposed revisions to the resolution first drafted in 1999. Barbara Ebert will attempt to redraft the resolution for committee approval before sending it on to the full EMC for action, in addition to a written response to Cornell. Key concerns relate to the long-term effectiveness of the preferred alternative.

The committee discussed a letter, drafted by Kristin Rowles in 1998, concerning Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of nutrients in Cayuga Lake, and voted to ask Kristin to update the wording of the letter to reflect changes since it was written and forward it on to the NYSDEC, EPA, and our elected representatives.

The committee reviewed the materials supplied by the Paleontological Research Institute regarding their proposed Museum addition, and raised a variety of concerns, which will be incorporated into our response to the lead agency. Also discussed was the history of the long-awaited changes to the county's septic regulations. Material will be gathered for further discussion in April. Bob Roe raised the question of the environmental impacts, particularly the potential for loss of open space and agricultural lands, perceived as a result of the new tax assessment on vacant parcels; Bob will report again in April. It was mentioned that the County

Board is strongly considering the preparation of a full EIS for the County Towers project; the committee will be asked, along with the County Towers Committee, to handle that review on behalf of the EMC.

The next meeting of the committee is Tuesday, April 25 at 5:00 PM in the Old Jail Conference Room.

Submitted by Barbara Ebert

Education Committee

The Education Committee is currently working with the UNA Committee to coordinate municipal presentations. We are trying to get a letter sent to the landowners of UNA's, but have not reached consensus on the timing and funding of this letter. Karen Edelstein has submitted a proposal to send a survey to landowners as part of her Master's thesis.



Earth Day 2000 plans are shaping up. The celebration at Stewart Park, April 22 from noon till 6 PM, is well organized and many exciting activities are scheduled. Over 30 groups have signed up for booths, and there will be food, continuous music, plays and lectures. The EMC table will feature a display of Solar Energy, a photovoltaic panel, a windmill, and an electric bicycle. We will also have available the invasive species list, the burn barrel pamphlet, a map of the UNA's, and any other items EMC members can up with (hint).

The **Library Solar Panel Committee** gave their presentation to the BOR on March 15. Susan Brock introduced Steve Nicholson and Kenny Christianson, who then proceeded to tell the Board probably more than they needed to know concerning the committee's findings on the value of the environmental and educational benefits expected with a photovoltaic array on the roof of the new TCPL.

The BOR will discuss this issue further on April 4, and then vote on the proposal April 11. It has been exciting to advise the BOR on the EMC's recommendation to install the largest grid-intertied photovoltaic array in New York State.

Submitted by Stephen C. Nicholson



Towers Committee

The committee identified potential environmental concerns for each of the proposed tower sites and provided that information to the County working group that is handling the emergency system upgrade. We will actively participate in the environmental review process for the proposed towers.

Submitted by Susan Brock

Municipal Reports

Town of Danby

The current environmental issues in Danby revolve around the integration of environmental concerns with the Comprehensive Plan for the Town, and the possible acquisition of land for a Town Community Center that borders on and includes parts of Fir Tree Swamp. Future issues are resident concerns over the siting and configuration of future 800 MHz. towers, and the development and implementation of a Recreation Master Plan for the Danby State Forest. The town has found that the UNA study is of great value for the town planning efforts and would like to thank the UNA Committee.

Submitted by Robert Roe



Town of Lansing

The Planning Board in the Town of Lansing is reviewing the land use ordinance and the 1995 comprehensive plan. (The ordinance for modification and expansion and the plan as part of an ongoing commitment to provide a living document.) We are also preparing a note for the County Planning Department to bring them up to date. It seems that the Planning Dept. published a list of county municipalities that have comprehensive plans, and noted to the effect that Lansing had one under consideration. The town board accepted the current comprehensive plan in the Town of Lansing in July 1995. It replaced an officially adopted plan from 1972. The Town of Lansing, therefore, has had a comprehensive plan since 1972.

The Town Board has established a committee to determine whether the "Old Town Hall" should be saved, sold, or torn down. A town-wide survey will garner opinions from residents as part of the decision-making process.

Submitted by Larry Sharpsteen

Coordinator's Report

Executive Committee Report

Water Resources Committee Report

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

No Reports Submitted

Upcoming Verbal Municipal Reports

May 10

V. Dryden, V. Freeville, V. Groton, C. Ithaca

June 14

T. Danby, T. Dryden, T. Lansing, T. Enfield

July 12

T. Caroline, T. Groton, T. Ithaca, V. Lansing

Upcoming Submission to the EMC News

May

T. Caroline, T. Groton, T. Ithaca, V. Lansing

June

T. Newfield, T. Ulysses, V. Cayuga Heights, V. Trumansburg

July

V. Dryden, V. Freeville, V. Groton, C. Ithaca

*If you do not have a copy of the schedule for these reports, please contact Mikel.

